



LENNY MARTINEZ—THE TECH

**Cubans and Cuban-Americans gathered at La Carreta in Miami, Florida on Saturday** to celebrate after learning the news that Fidel Castro had passed away late Friday night. Some celebrated the death of the former president of Cuba while others instead celebrated the end of an oppressive era and looked forward to a brighter future for Cuba.

# Statement opposing Trump nominees to cabinet attracts 458 faculty signatories

*Authors disseminated message by word of mouth, highlighted need for collective community action*

By Vivian Zhong  
NEWS EDITOR

A total of 458 MIT faculty members, as of yesterday afternoon, have signed a statement opposing President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet appointments and reaffirming their dedication to "principles at the core of MIT's mission."

The statement denounces discrimination, promotes open communication, and asserts the need to respect the scientific method. Signatories include four out of the ten Nobel Prize winners currently part of the MIT faculty, as well as author Junot Diaz and Affordable Care Act architect Jonathan Gruber.

The faculty statement was largely initiated and authored by members of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences

department, including professors Nancy Kanwisher and Robert Levy, along with Sarah Schwettmann G and Rosa Lafer-Sousa G, whom *The Tech* interviewed at the Solidarity Rally last Monday.

The statement was first posted Nov. 21, the same day that a statement in support of undocumented immigrant students signed by hundreds of university presidents, including President Rafael Reif, went public.

"We first conceived of the statement starting about a week after the election," Levy wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "This discussion got us thinking more broadly about the threat that certain campaign promises and administrative ap-

Faculty Statement, Page 2

## IN SHORT

**Pre-registration for IAP and spring 2017 opens today** on WebSIS.

**IAP PE registration periods** are Weds., Nov. 30 at 8 a.m. - Weds., Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. for undergraduates and Tues., Dec. 6 at 8 a.m. - Weds., Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. for graduate students.

**Recipients of an MIT parking ticket this past year can donate new, unopened toys to the Parking and Transportation Office instead of paying the fine.** The value of the toy or game must be of equal or greater

value than the parking violation, and must be brought along with the parking violation and the toy's receipt to Room W20-022 by Fri., Dec. 9.

Due to construction in Kendall Square, the UA Campus Planning Committee has **relocated food trucks in that area to the following locations: between E14 & E23, between Buildings 56 & 66, and between Buildings 14 & 50.** Food trucks will rotate locations on a weekly basis.

Send news and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

# UA to sponsor annual tree-lighting event for the first time this year

*Tech Twinkles will deck the residence halls with lights and provide desserts at event*

By Patrick Wahl  
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association Events Committee will host the Tech Twinkles ceremony in the lobby of Kresge Auditorium today, kicking off the holiday-themed lighting of trees and living spaces around the MIT campus.

This is the third year Tech Twin-

kles will light up trees on campus, but the first that it will do so partnered with UA Events, making it one of only three events sponsored by the committee, the others being FallFest and SpringFest.

Tech Twinkles, with funding from the Division of Student Life, strung lights on the trees outlining

Tech Twinkle, Page 7

# Seniors boycott the Senior Gift in protest of admin decisions

*It's not about the money; protesters say they intend it to send a message about poor communication on key issues*

By Anshula Gandhi  
STAFF REPORTER

A rising number of seniors are pledging not to give to Senior Gift in protest of administrative actions which include the Senior House moratorium on accepting freshmen.

"We've seen the administration make a lot of far-reaching decisions without consulting students during our time here," boycott initiator Marcus Boorstin '17 wrote in an email to his peers, citing the shutdown of Bexley Hall, changes in dorm security, and the ban on freshmen in Senior House.

Every year, seniors are asked to contribute to "Senior Gift" - a

donation to MIT. Boorstin hopes to "send a signal that something is seriously wrong" by lowering the percentage of seniors who donate this year.

"I think the boycott's greatest impact will be the future loss of alumni giving for both financial and image reasons," Boorstin explained. "Older alumni donate increasingly more money, and I think that the Class of 2017 starting out with a significantly lower participation rate would be a bad sign for future giving, where the amounts are significant, if the administration does not change its behavior."

Some students have argued that not donating to MIT will hurt

MIT students more than it will help. But boycotters are quick to point out that money from the senior gift is not a significant portion of MIT's funding.

"It's not the actual donation that matters," Lillian Chin '17, another participant in the boycott, said in an interview with *The Tech*. "Consider that the minimum pledge is \$5 for the Senior Gift. If everyone in the class gave, only \$5500 would be raised. Even if this was matched 5 times, that's still only \$25k, which is less than a semester's worth of tuition."

"The operating budget for MIT is in the billions. So this is not

Senior Gift, Page 2

## IAP Intro to Python replaced with new course

One of IAP's most popular courses, 6.149: Introduction to Programming Using Python, will not be offered this January. It will be replaced by a new course, 6.S080: A Brief Introduction to Programming in Python.

Similar to 6.149, the new course is meant for students with

little to no prior experience with programming. Unlike 6.149, the new course will not be student-taught. According to Audrey E. Resutek, communications officer for the EECS department, this change was motivated by the programming skills requirement in the new curriculum the

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science launched at the beginning of this semester.

In addition to 6.S080, students can take either 6.S08 or 6.01 to fulfill the new requirement.

—Rose Wang

## SCIENCE UNDER FIRE

What MIT should do.  
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## WHALE TAILS AND BREXIT

Inequity around us hides in plain sight.  
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## CAN YOU CRACK PNR?

Enjoy the final month. FUN, p. 10



## A NEW PRINCESS

Fresh adventure with heart.  
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## PLAYER OF THE MONTH

A football player in his freshman year.  
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WEATHER

Departing low will give way to mostly clear skies

By Costa Christopoulos  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

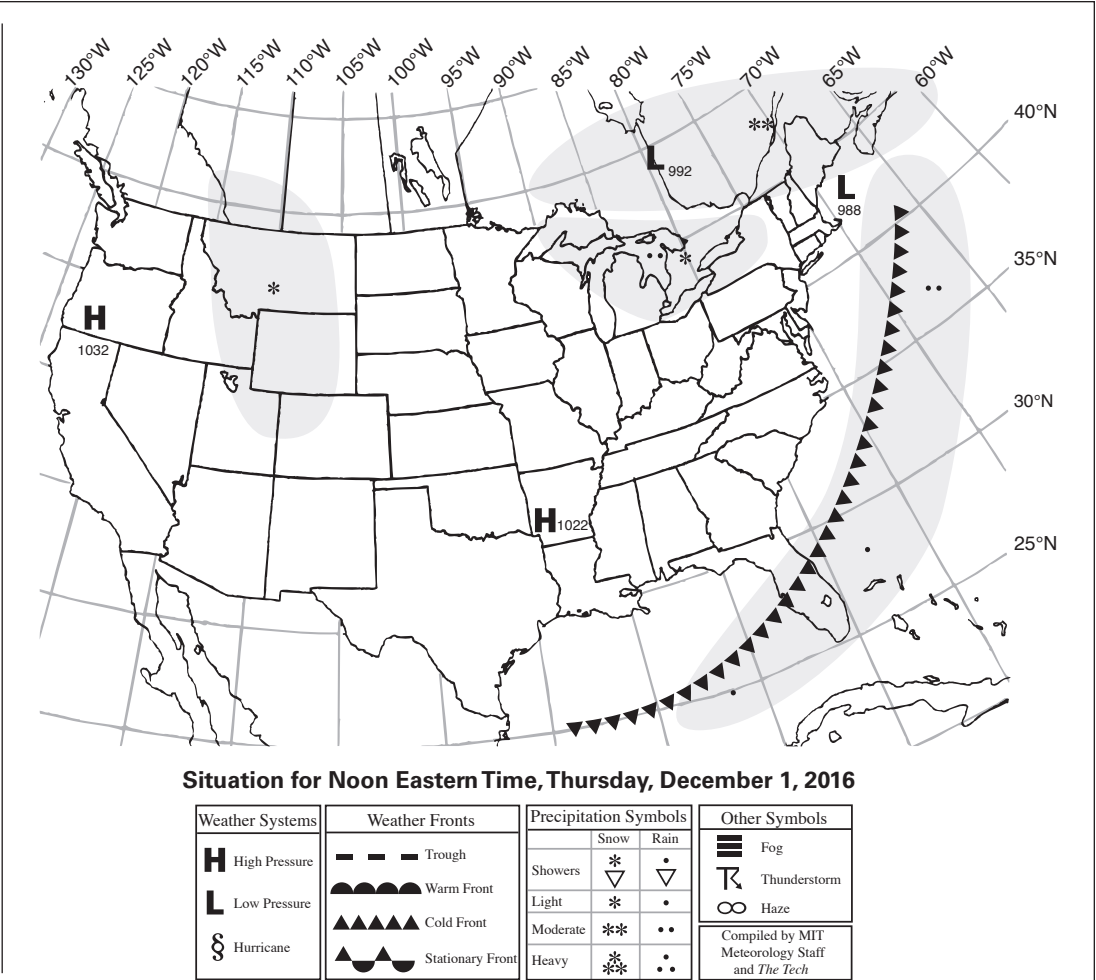
Cool air and clear skies will follow behind the departing front that brought widespread rainfall to Boston last night. Today, cloudy skies will stick around before being shunted out by drier air this evening. The weather remains amicable this weekend, with clear skies and highs in the mid 40s°F.

The Boston area remains in a severe drought, joining over 31% of the lower 48 states with notable rainfall deficits. This year will likely be one of the warmest on record both nationally and globally, and the prolonged heat has exacerbated

drought conditions across the US. Over 10% of the nation is experiencing an extreme or exceptional drought, characterized by major crop losses and water shortages. This week's forest fires in Tennessee are a reminder that widespread drought has been associated with a large range of adverse consequences this year, especially across the southeast and west coast. In California, the US Forest Service has estimated over 62 million tree deaths this year, representing the largest die-off in modern state history. While most of us tend to hope for clear, sunny skies, many drought-ravaged portions of the US could really use some more rainfall.

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy and clearing. High of 54°F (12°C). Winds west at 10 mph, gusting to 20 mph.  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear. Low of 36°F (2°C). Winds west at 10 mph.  
**Tomorrow:** Partly cloudy. High of 47°F (8°C). Winds west at 10 mph.  
**Saturday:** Partly cloudy. High of 43°F (6°C).  
**Sunday:** Sunny. High of 42° (6°C).F



MIT trip to DC planned to protest at inauguration  
*SHASS overrepresented among the signatories, but the letter is still being circulated*

Faculty Statement, from Page 1

pointments pose not only to these students but to the core values of our community and institution.”

He added, “it got us thinking about the role that faculty at MIT... have to play in defending these values for the sake of our educational institutions and for society at large. This led to the idea of a formal statement of values.”

The letter, according to Schwetmann, was crafted after the cabinet appointments cited in the statement were made public.

Levy hopes that this statement will help establish “a precedent for university faculty across the country to continue to speak out strongly for the importance of science in public policy, and to stand up for diversity, inclusivity, and mutual respect in our educational institutions and in society at large.”

The statement is “not a declaration of partisan affiliation, and it’s not a request for any particular administrative policy change,” Schwetmann said.

For Schwetmann, this letter is also a part of a movement to “lift local successful efforts to a procedural level for replication elsewhere” — to spread the movement.

Asked how the letter was initially shared with fellow faculty, Kanwisher replied, “we emailed individual faculty we knew or who we thought might be interested. I sent no group emails other than to the faculty in my own department.”

“Part of the beauty of this statement lies in the fact that it really gained ground from the bottom up,” Schwetmann added, explaining why they did not email the statement to the entire faculty. “We didn’t want to pressure anyone to sign, or imply that the statement

was representative of all of MIT.” In addition, she said, they didn’t have the authority to email the all-faculty mailing list.

“I suspect there are still many faculty who do not yet know about it,” Kanwisher added. “The number of faculty signers continues to grow every day.” Indeed, the number of signatories increased dramatically in the last few days as outside news organizations featured the faculty message and word of it spread.

Kanwisher hopes that the statement will reassure MIT students of faculty support and campus safety. She proposed that the list of signatories can help MIT community members interested in improving scientific outreach find “kindred spirits.”

Asked if she has received any replies of dissent from colleagues, Kanwisher replied that she believes most faculty members support the spirit of the statement. “Several

people who agree with the spirit of the statement took issue with a particular word or phrase,” she noted. “This is normal; we academics are picky, and we are not in the habit of signing a statement someone else wrote.”

The statement has been featured in articles by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Magazine*, and *Breitbart News*. While the press release for the faculty message focused on the angle of standing by MIT’s values, the outside press headlined its opposition to Trump’s cabinet decisions. *Breitbart* zeroed in on the authors’ criticism of Steve Bannon, previous Executive Chairman of *Breitbart* and current chief to Trump.

About 25 percent of MIT faculty have now signed the statement. SHASS, which comprises 17 percent of MIT faculty, represents a disproportionately large percentage of the

signatories at about 22 percent. The School of Engineering is underrepresented, with also about 22 percent of signatories, but comprising 37 percent of total faculty. These differences may be a result of the thus far uneven dissemination of the statement across departments.

The authors opened the statement to all MIT community members yesterday at 2:30 p.m. According to the Schwetmann, there had been discussion with the undergraduate hosts of last week’s rally on the pros and cons of writing separate statements. They eventually decided to combine efforts after witnessing the impressive movement behind the faculty statement.

Schwetmann and others are organizing an MIT trip to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate during the inauguration of President-elect Trump.

The statement can be read and signed at mitvalues.org.

UA President Liu discourages boycott, Barnhart invites students to converse with administration  
*Senior House, dorm security & RLADs cited as issues that continue to draw students’ ire*

Senior Gift, from Page 1

making a difference,” Chin said.

So if a boycott doesn’t impact MIT funding, why participate?

“If you’re not happy with the direction of MIT, you shouldn’t donate,” Chin said.

Boycotters hope a sudden dip in the percentage of donating seniors would cause influential alumni, and through them the administration, to take notice. Senior gift donations have been steadily increasing since 2005.

A successful boycott would not only result in a drop in senior gift donations. It would also entail making both students and admin-

istrators more aware of issues surrounding MIT student-administration conflict.

“Even the fact that there is a discussion means that [the boycott] is kind of succeeding,” Chin said.

Another argument raised against the boycott is that it will further aggravate student-administrator relations.

“Multiple points of advocacy are key,” Chin countered. “Boycotts happen because there aren’t channels of communication with the administration.”

Chin, as chair of the Student-Administration Collaboration Committee of the Undergraduate

Association, was especially careful to consider the effect of the boycott on student-admin relations.

In a post to the MIT Class of 2017 Facebook group, UA President Sophia Liu ‘17 encouraged classmates to learn about “learn more about the Senior Gift and what it does for the MIT community.”

“After spending my MIT experience working to advocate for students, I’ve found that there are so many layers to every issue,” Liu wrote. “There are ways to make a point without negatively impacting student groups, and making a positive statement is so much more powerful.”

The post sparked a heated back-

and-forth between seniors in the comment section. Controversial decisions made by MIT brought up in the debate included dorm security and RLADs, in addition to issues surrounding Senior Haus.

Barnhart invited students to converse with the administration. “They are welcome to talk to me or any other member of the Turnaround Team to learn more about the good work Senior House residents and the administration, along with staff and faculty, have been doing since September,” she wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

“I appreciate the concerns of the students involved, and believe that they have a right to voice their

concerns in this way,” Barnhart said.

Lydia Snover, director of Institutional Research at MIT, disagreed with the boycotters.

“Personally, I don’t think boycotts are very effective,” Snover wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

Snover said that she did not have insight on whether the senior gift was important in terms of influencing more significant donations in the future.

Boorstin encouraged boycotters to use their money to instead donate to other organizations, including Planned Parenthood, the Drew Esquivel memorial fund, and Camp Kesem.



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# ***Moana* is a delightful new breed of empowering Disney princess movie**

A close-up of Moana, the protagonist of the Disney movie 'Moana'. She is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to her right with a gentle smile. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is wearing a traditional Polynesian-style strapless top with a red and black pattern. A necklace with a large, circular, blue and white pendant hangs around her neck. The background is a vast ocean under a sunset sky, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and reflecting on the water's surface.

**Moana** follows its titular character on both a literal and figurative journey of self-discovery.

The recipe for a hit Disney animated film is no trade secret. Start with a strong, young female protagonist (usually a princess), and a trusty animal sidekick, sprinkle in a generous dose of family-friendly humor, throw in an internal conflict that is cleverly mirrored in an external struggle, add a deli-

Like any good Disney movie worth its salt, *Moana* tethers its lighthearted comedy and rousing action to a central, uplifting

Along the way, Moana and Maui come face to face with tiny pirate coconuts, a sparkly, self-absorbed crustacean named Tamatoa (Jemaine Clement), and a flaming lava demon, among other things. Though Tamatoa certainly steals the show with the oddly catchy 1970s glam rock number “Shiny”, *Moana* strays from the traditional one-villain structure and instead opts for a trio of distinctly different baddies. The good guys, too, are memorable in their own ways. Johnson successfully imbues the arrogant and sometimes oblivious demi-god Maui with a vulnerability and likeability that gives his character a heartwarming depth. Gramma Tala (Rachel House) is the self-proclaimed crazy village lady, and she plays the classic wise elder role with comedic aplomb, à la Grandmother Fa from *Mulan* or Rafiki from *The Lion King*. The dark horse contender for best character, however, is Heihei (Alan Tudyk), Moana’s mute, cross-eyed chicken

Whether or not you are already a Disney fan, *Moana* is a fresh adventure with heart and humor that can't be missed. And don't be surprised if you leave the theater with an enormous grin and a melody or two stuck in your head.



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# Event joins SpringFest, FallFest as official UA-sponsored festivities

*A capella groups will provide music while MindHandHeart will provide free mugs*

Tech Twinkle, from Page 1

the pathway between the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center and Kresge Oval between Nov. 28 and 30. In addition, this year it received funding from the Baker Foundation to purchase and distribute lights and extension cords to the campus dormitories.

The lighting celebration, which will take place at 7 p.m., is sponsored by UA Events and will include desserts, performances by the Logarhythms, Resonance, and Roadkill Buffet, as well as free mugs sponsored by MindHandHeart.

Tech Twinkles was conceived by Teresa de Figueiredo '17, Veronika Jedryka '17, and Jane He '15, who first lit the trees outside the Zesiger Center with support from the DSL in December 2014. De Figueiredo was inspired by the trees that line Newbury Street in Boston, which are lit during the holiday season.

The goals of the project are to bring the MIT community together and make MIT a more welcoming place during the winter, de Figueiredo and Jedryka said in an interview with *The Tech*. "Really we're just looking to brighten people's spirits," Jedryka said. "We know it gets so tough here."

Though the event has grown considerably in scale since its inception, de Figueiredo and Jedryka are still heavily involved in its execution, and have worked closely with UA Events

since their organization joined forces with the committee. Jane He now works in Washington, D.C., but de Figueiredo and Jedryka said that she still advises them on the project.

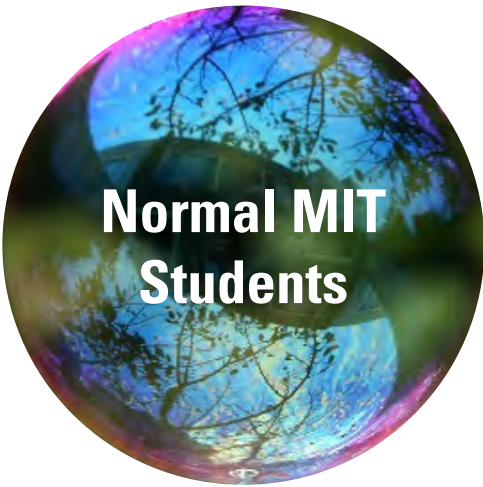
"You can count on them to get everything done," Ann Quan '20, the UA Events member who handled much of the publicity for Tech Twinkles, told *The Tech*. "They're communicating with the DSL, they're running around and providing us with past contacts, and also... helping with the actual logistics."

Likewise, de Figueiredo and Jedryka expressed enthusiasm about working with UA Events. "We do want to have them completely run [Tech Twinkles] next year," de Figueiredo said. The two founders helped run other UA-sponsored events, like the October study break, earlier in the year, and began delegating the responsibilities associated with Tech Twinkles to other UA Events members, working to integrate their groups.

The professional lighting near the Zesiger Center was strung by Currier Landscaping, the same company that provides holiday decoration services for Copley Square and President L. Rafael Reif's home.

The organizers did not know how long the lights will stay on the trees, but said they were expecting to keep them up through the darkest parts of the winter. "We're envisioning at least till [the] end of February," Jedryka said.

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# My experiences with Yesplus

When I was a sophomore, I participated in a club event at MIT called the Yesplus retreat: an on-campus workshop which taught yoga, meditation, leadership and communication skills. I learned about it from a graduate student I knew who volunteered to teach weekly yoga and meditation sessions.

We learned a couple basic breathing techniques which we would need when doing the Sudarshan Kriya technique. There were a couple different types of kriya: one was called “ujjayi”, which was elongated and relaxing; another was called “bhastrika”, which was quick, slightly forceful, and energizing. We learned the full technique over the next five days. But even that first session led me to a pretty relaxed state. I noticed that, while doing this

On the final day, the teacher recommended that we try doing the home Sudarshan Kriya practice once a day for the next 40 days. At that point, she advised, look back and assess whether it made a meaningful impact or not. If it did, keep doing it as a daily practice. I didn't need the 40

The MIT Physical Education (PE) Department is piloting a PE course, "Yesplus: Yoga and Meditation for the Mind," over the President's day weekend (February 17-20, 2017), which is currently available through Q3 PE signups. More information on the SKY technique and the program is available at <http://web.mit.edu/yesplus>.

# On whale tails and Brexit

This summer, I studied the behavior of flapping foil systems at the University of Southampton in England. Flapping foils are devices modeled on the swimming mechanisms of cetaceans and many fish. They are essentially robotic whale tails that can be strapped to the stern of a boat as a means of propulsion or to a post in the surf to harvest energy as waves force the device to flap. This is a gross oversimplification of how the flapping foils are implemented, but it gives a good mental image of how they work. I worked with the Fluid Structure Interactions Group (FSI) which focuses on the dynamic behavior of engineering systems in marine environments. This means that in addition to doing computer simulations and hydrodynamics calculations, I got to play with marine robots in a large towing tank!

The University of Southampton reminded me of MIT in many ways. Over the course of my internship, I got to know the other students — mostly PhDs and post-docs — who were conducting research at the university over the summer. A large number of these students were international, so even though I remained in England for the entire summer, I learned a

I remember going into work that Friday and seeing everyone — international and British citizens alike — walking around in a daze. The initial reaction was shock, followed by concern and sadness. A univer-

**I wondered if the bubble surrounding MIT and the University of Southampton contributed to our shock at Britain's overall decision to leave the EU. My instinct tells me that it did.**

**There was an overall sense of hopelessness as the country rejected the essence of what any university represents.**

While I did not believe that doing research on mechanical whale tails would directly improve the world, I did believe that somehow, by traveling, conducting

*Fiona's internship is a result of an ongoing collaboration between MISTI and IROP.*



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\* Data from similar programs teaching SKY meditation, offered by the Yesplus @ MIT student group. 46 responses were received, constituting 90% of MIT students who participated during April 2015 – September 2016.



Yesplus @ MIT



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## Solution, page 12

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

## Solution, page 12

- 1 Tendencies
- 6 Cozy inn, for short
- 11 Empty space
- 14 In the know
- 15 Martini garnish
- 16 Roth plan, briefly
- 17 Ice-cream parlor order
- 19 Wine, in France
- 20 Glossy paints
- 21 Annoying one
- 22 Eagle's nail
- 24 Goes to a lot of trouble
- 26 Settle up in advance
- 30 Spain's peninsula
- 32 Volcanic flow
- 33 From Israel or India
- 34 Beaver's handiwork
- 37 Investor's cost calculation
- 41 Japanese money
- 42 Danger
- 43 Person from London
- 44 Walk softly
- 46 Fern leaves
- 48 Daredevil's feats
- 50 Hard to find
- 52 Furniture wood

58 Night sch. class  
59 Significant difference  
63 100 %  
64 Mexican money  
65 Puts in the bank  
66 Could possibly  
67 Try for a job  
68 Italics feature

- 1 Baseball great Ruth
- 2 McGregor of Star Wars movies
- 3 Granny
- 4 Disney World shuttle
- 5 New York lake
- 6 \_\_ nova (Brazilian dance)
- 7 Yodeler's perch
- 8 Zilch
- 9 506, to Caesar
- 10 Play the horses
- 11 Cares
- 12 Crop up
- 13 Jeans and khakis
- 18 Friend in battle
- 21 Tire-pressure meas.

24 Phobia  
25 Caterer's coffeepots  
26 Stage production  
27 Four-star review  
28 Sooner or later  
29 Golf course standard  
31 Actress Jessica  
33 Prefix for dynamic  
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team  
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channel  
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46 Astaire or Flintstone  
47 Neglecting one's  
duties  
48 Fulton's power source  
49 Electric car company  
51 Pretentious  
54 Locket shape  
55 Prima donna  
56 Biblical paradise  
57 "\_\_\_\_\_ we forget!"

59 Dean's List fig.	61 Medium's claim
60 Good name, briefly	62 "You've got mail" service



## Four of a “Kind” by Gail Grabowski

Solution, page 12

### ACROSS

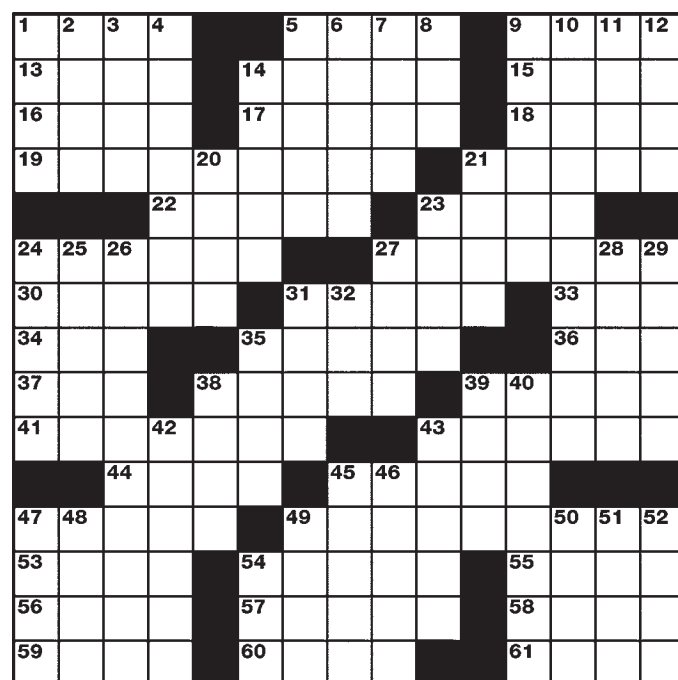
- 1 Bartlett or Bosc
- 5 Be introduced to
- 9 24-hr. cash devices
- 13 Outer boundary
- 14 \_\_ sense (ESP)
- 15 Poker token
- 16 Coral ridge
- 17 Getting chilled, as  
champagne
- 18 Voice-mail signal
- 19 Kind and considerate
- 21 Safe and \_\_ (out of danger)
- 22 Cook in a barbecue
- 23 Performed in a choir
- 24 Cavalry swords
- 27 Single or home run
- 30 Made an attempt
- 31 Butcher's weighing  
machine
- 33 Prefix meaning "three"
- 34 Oil-drilling equipment
- 35 Tire in the trunk
- 36 "So \_\_, so good"
- 37 Fireplace residue
- 38 Rains cats and dogs
- 39 Fry lightly

41 1:00 a.m. or 2:00 a.m.  
43 In ringlets, as hair  
44 Senior citizens group  
45 "\_\_\_ it?" (door-knock reply)  
47 Lowest in quality  
49 Kind and considerate  
53 \_\_\_ and crafts  
54 Biological duplicate  
55 Cape Canaveral org.  
56 Fishing-line holder  
57 Verse writers  
58 Throat-clearing sound  
59 Pie à la \_\_\_  
60 Calculates a total  
61 Entice

**DOWN**

- 1 Where Lima is capital
- 2 Adam and Eve's home
- 3 Matures, as wine
- 4 Basketball arbiter
- 5 Short skirts
- 6 Live and breathe
- 7 Engrave with acid
- 8 Start of many book titles
- 9 Start of a stage play
- 10 Kind and considerate

11 St. Paul's state: Abbr.  
12 Drove too fast  
14 Living-room seatings  
20 British nobleman  
21 Manuscript enclosure:  
Abbr.  
23 Reduced-price event  
24 Scarecrow filling  
25 Stand up  
26 Kind and considerate  
27 Cakes of soap  
28 Angry  
29 Ready for a rest  
31 Urge on  
32 Coupe or sedan  
35 Minestrone, for  
example  
38 Harbor town  
39 Men's business attire  
40 Weapons warehouse  
42 Big inconvenience  
43 Centers of apples  
45 Wined and dined  
46 Searches (for)  
47 Slightly hot  
48 Three-tier cookie  
49 Clumsy person

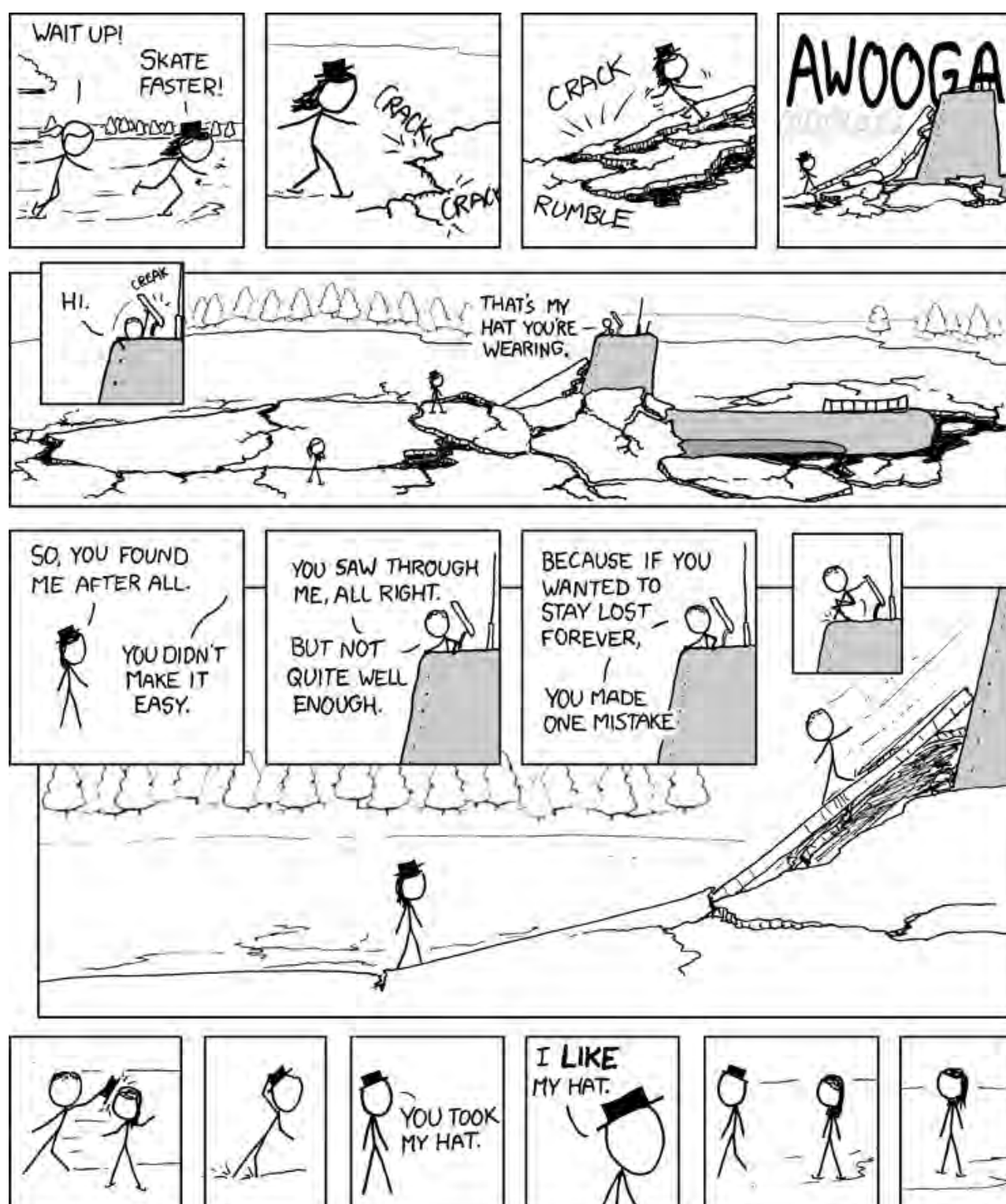


50 Where Honolulu is  
51 Computer buyer

52 Identical  
54 IRS form pro



### [405] Journal 3



Oh, and, uh, if the Russian government asks, that submarine was always there.



PLAYER OF THE MONTH

# Robertson '20, successful football rookie, says team brotherhood and making work fun are key

By Ahaan Rungta  
SPORTS STAFF

MIT Football played two games in the month of November. They earned a win against Curry College 26-21, and took a tough double-overtime 36-35 loss to Nichols College. The Engineers rode on an offensive outburst from running back John Robertson '20, who ran for a total of 328 yards with six touchdowns in his two November games. He closed out his stellar rookie season by recording four consecutive games in which he rushed for at least 100 yards. He ended the season with a total of 920 yards and 11 touchdowns, earned the NEFC Offensive Rookie of the Week honors twice, NEFC Offensive Player of the Week honors once, and was one of the seven Engineers to make an appearance on an NEFC All-Conference Team as MIT Football finished the season with a 3-7 overall record.

We spoke with November Player of the Month, Robertson, a Course 2 prospective, about his success as a rookie and what being an Engineer means to him.

*The Tech:* Congratulations on your immense success as a rookie! We know that balancing your life between varsity sports and an MIT academic life can be challenging, especially as a freshman. What is something you have learned through the process that you plan to take out of your time at MIT?

**John Robertson:** Making work fun – one of the strangest yet coolest things I have seen thus far at MIT is how the majority of the student body handles the academic demands of the Institute. Namely, have fun doing your work. Get together with friends and have a good time while still

being productive. Tackling my first semester with that attitude has made it fly by.

*The Tech:* What makes MIT a special team to play on? Is there anything besides just “playing the game” that you can attribute your season success to?

**Robertson:** The brotherhood is what makes MIT football special. All of the freezing practices, late night workouts, balancing the academic workload – we’re all in it together. Playing not for yourself but for the brother beside you – that’s when we play our best, and that’s when it becomes more than a game. As a result, a bond is formed that exists beyond the field. That bond makes MIT football truly special.

Fun fact: I didn’t actually want to come to MIT at first. I was really not a fan of the city, cold, and most importantly leaving my friends and family in Nashville, but the Lord had other plans. He opened the door and told me to come, so here I am. Been blessed with the greatest community here at MIT ever since. I attribute all my football success to Him.

*The Tech:* Tell us something about the team we probably don’t know or maybe that even you didn’t imagine when coming in as a freshman as a rookie. Has anything shocked you about college football?

**Robertson:** I could’ve never imagined how hard the players work. It doesn’t show in the statistics at the end of the game, but the amount of responsibility and obligation the players juggle is crazy. And what’s more – nobody complains. Players will go to class all day, work on problem sets up until practice, go run around and hit someone for two hours, then come back and take a two hour physics test like it’s nothing. Throughout the season I couldn’t help but constantly admire the seniors on the team. I’m

juggling a lot and all I have to do is pass. They have every obligation of which you can think vying for their time, yet they always come in smiling, ready to get to work on the field and have a good time in the process.

*The Tech:* Along with football, you were also a two-time second team all-district center fielder in baseball for your high school. Why football?

**Robertson:** I do miss baseball quite a bit, but I think football just has that something about it. It’s a constant adrenaline rush every time you step inside the lines. You give up your body for the name on the front of the jersey. For your teammates. There’s not a better feeling in the world than being dead tired after a win with your brothers, and for me, that feeling is a lot harder to come by in baseball.

*The Tech:* Do you have an inspiration? Is there someone you look up to – in your every day life, in football, or in academics?

**Robertson:** I really look up to Hugh Freeze, head football coach for the Ole Miss Rebels. How he carries himself, coaches the game, and most importantly lives out his faith in Jesus are all characteristics I strive to imitate.

*Editor’s note:* This interview was edited for clarity.

## SPORTS BLITZ

**Men’s basketball** (3-2) defeated UMass Boston 84-61. Samuel Bockman '19 led the Engineers with 23 points and 6 assists.

**Women’s basketball** (4-1) overpowered Emerson 75-40. Cindy Si '20 led the team with 19 points.

Solution to Crossword  
from page 11

EDGE	SIXTH	CHIP
REEF	ONICE	TONE
UNSELFISH	SOUND	
ROAST	SANG	
SABERS	BASEHIT	
TRIED	SCALE	TRI
RIG	SPARE	FAR
ASH	POURS	SAUTE
WEEHOUR	CURLED	
AARP	WHOIS	
WORST	COURTEOUS	
ARTS	CLONE	NASA
REEL	POETS	AHEM
MODE	ADDS	LURE

Solution to Crossword  
from page 10

BENTS	BANDB	GAP
AWARE	OLIVE	IRA
BANANAS	SPLIT	VIN
ENAMELS	PEST	
CLAW	FUSSES	
PREPAY	IBERIA	
LAVA	ASIAN	DAM
AVERAGE	PERSHARE	
YEN	PERIL	BRIT
TIPTOE	FRONDS	
STUNTS	RARE	
TEAK	REMODEL	
ESL	GREAT	DIVIDE
ALL	PESOS	SAVES
MAY	APPLY	SLANT

Solution to Sudoku  
from page 5



3	4	6	8	5	7	9	1	2
1	2	5	4	9	6	3	8	7
7	9	8	3	1	2	4	6	5
6	1	9	2	8	3	5	7	4
8	7	2	5	4	1	6	3	9
5	3	4	6	7	9	8	2	1
2	5	1	9	6	8	7	4	3
4	8	3	7	2	5	1	9	6
9	6	7	1	3	4	2	5	8

Solution to Techdoku  
from page 5



4	3	2	5	6	1
3	2	1	4	5	6
2	1	6	3	4	5
5	4	3	6	1	2
6	5	4	1	2	3
1	6	5	2	3	4

Solution to Techdoku  
from page 10



3	2	7	6	4	9	1	5	8
8	7	3	2	9	5	6	1	4
2	1	6	5	3	8	9	4	7
7	6	2	1	8	4	5	9	3
9	8	4	3	1	6	7	2	5
1	9	5	4	2	7	8	3	6
6	5	1	9	7	3	4	8	2
5	4	9	8	6	2	3	7	1
4	3	8	7	5	1	2	6	9





VS



VS



VS



VS

Want to see these teams battle it out in person?

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